(b) when the first prototype test is scheduled;

(c) what is the cost of this project; and

(d) what is the position of the indigenous engine for LCA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) The Project Definition Phase of the LCA has been completed. The detailed documents have been studied by the users/experts. The approach now proposed is to proceed ahead with LCA development in two phases. The first phase would involve development of two prototypes in order to prove advanced technologies being incorporated in the LCA. Based on the progress of Phase I, clearance for Phase II involving development and productionisation would be progressed. The proposal for design, development and production of two prototypes during Phase I is under examination of the management of Aeronautical Development Agency.

(b) In view of the approach indicated above, the first flight of the first prototypes is planned in the year 1995.

(c) The project cost for launching of the first phase is being worked out. The total cost of the project for development is, however, estimated to be Rs. 3000 crores at 1989 price level.

(d) A project for design and development of indigenous engine viz. GTX-35VS was sanctioned in March. 89. Design and test activities on components are in progress. Core engine layout has been completed. Forging drawings for the core engine components, excluding turbine and compressor, have been finalised.

Modification in sports guidelines

113. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Guidelines on Sports are being revised; and

(b) whether Government propose to call a meeting of the Indian Olympic Association and the National Federations to discuss the modification of the Guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) No, Sir.

(b) There is presently no proposal to call such a meeting.

Air Crashes in the IAF

114. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of air crashes in the IAF during the last three years;

(b) what are the reasons for the accident rate being so alarmingly high; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to implement the L'Fontaine Report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) and (b) The accident rate in the IAF is not alarmingly high. It has been registering a gradual downward trend over the last 3 years. It would not be in the public interest to disclose information regarding the number of crashes.

(c) La'Fontaine Committee had made 45 recommendations, which were grouped into 32. Government accepted 30 of these recommendations which have been implemented.

Stationing of Pak forces in the uniform of Rangers on the borders

115. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the movement of Pakistan's Army Personnel, who are stationed at the Pakistan Rangers post on the other side of the border in various sectors in the Rangers' dress;

(b) if so, the details of steps taken by the Indian authorities to check possible adventurist moves of Pakistani forces;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there has been a noticeable increase in this infiltration from across the border and spying activities carried on by Pak agents in the border areas; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the authorities to contain the same and the results yielded during the last three months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) Government has seen reports in this regard.

(b) to (d) Government constantly monitor all developments having a bearing on our national security and take appropriate measures to ensure full defence preparedness at all times.

Special recruitment procedure for handicapped persons in group D service

116. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Personnel have organised a special recruitment procedure for recruiting Handicapped persons in Group 'D' categories; if so, when the last recruitment was done in Gujarat and how many persons were given employment;

(b) whether the Railways and other Central Government departments are not authorised to make recruitment against "hearing handicapped" quota; if so, whether vacancies have been advised to the Department of Personnel from Central Government agencies and Departments in the State of Gujarat and what action has been taken by the Personnel Department; and

(c) whether Government are considering further directives in the matter of recruitment of Handicapped; if so, when the fresh guidelines are likely to be issued?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b) Central Government Departments including the Railways are competent to make recruitment against vacancies reserved for hearing handicapped. A special Recruitment Committee has been constituted by the Central Government for recruitment of blind and deaf candidates to Group 'C' and 'D' posts under the Special Recruitment Procedure. 11 reserved vacancies (2 for visually handicapped and 9 for hearing handicapped) in Group 'D' categories have been reported from offices in Gujarat. Recruitment to these posts will be made on the basis of interview.

(c) No, Sir.

Demonstration by scientists of CSIR

117. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Scientists and other employees of the Council of